GUN CONTROL

Obama moved to action

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

High -8°C/Low -10°C Mainly cloudy

What's the shelf life of your holiday leftovers?

metroLIFE

Ian McCausland introduces his "Modern Day Heroes" display — part of the Olympus: Greco-Roman Collection of Berlin, which is on display until March 6.

DAVID LIPNOWSKI/FOR METRO

PLAYING GODS

Winnipeg Art Gallery shows athletes like you've never seen them before

metroNEWS

The Forks hopes for deep freeze

WARMER-PEG

Skating trail looking more promising in coming weeks

Donna Maxwell
For Metro | Winnipeg

We all know Winnipeggers can brave the cold, but a few are hoping for a serious deep freeze — or the city's river skating trail won't happen

"It's sort of a catch-22," said Chelsea Thomson, marketing and communications manager for The Forks North Portage, agreeing it's odd to be hopeful for dropping temperatures, but as part of the group that manages the Red River Mutual skating trail, that's the predicament she's in.

"But even if (the temperature) just drops a little bit, (it will) freeze that ice, and let us get back on."

Despite the mild temperatures that have dominated the early part of the winter, Thomson said there's no need to panic just yet. Forecasters are calling for chilly temperatures over the next week, and that may be enough to get the walking and skating trail on track.

"I think that we're cautiously optimistic we'll have some form of the Red River Mutual Trail. We don't want to write off the idea entirely," said Thomson. "We really hope that we can make something of it.

"We're really just waiting for a few more days or weeks of colder temperatures."

The warm weather has already forced RAW:Almond, the frozen river dining experience, off the not-fully frozen junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers and onto a nearby peninsula.

"The other challenging aspect of it is that the rivers are moving very fast, so that's another reason that they're not freezing at this point," Thomson said.

"If that minus-20 that they're forecasting lasts for a few more days, then that would mean some really good things for us."

Plan B would be to expand the one kilometre on-land walking trail, and there's still plenty to do at The Forks in the meantime, she said, with two skating rinks, the toboggan hill and snowboard hill.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Fast-food chains wage price war with meal combos designed to discourage dollar menus

KNOW YOUR ZONE

Second delay on expansion report

A report on the possible expansion of Winnipeg's "Know Your Zone" program to all street services has once again been pushed back.

On Tuesday, the standing policy committee on infrastructure renewal and public works directed that the report, which was not made available as an agenda item for the meeting, should be presented next month.

This is the second delay in the report's schedule. Last October, the committee agreed to grant a 90-day extension for city bureaucrats to prepare the document.

"The original motion was to see if the department could combine Know Your Zone, street cleaning and insecticide spraying into a zone, so people would know, 'I'm in 'Zone A' for everything,'" committee chair Coun. Janice Lukes said afterward.

"I understand that mosquito spraying is different than snow removal areas and street sweeping is different, but we've got to be able to (have) a better way of communicating to the public what's going on."

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

OSBORNE STREET

City eyes expansion for transit garage

Winnipeg transit is finally rolling ahead with plans to expand its maintenance garage.

According to a bid posted to the city's website, the transit department is seeking a contractor to design and build a 50,000-sq.-ft. expansion to its existing repair headquarters at 421 Osborne St.

"It's long overdue," John Callahan, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 150, said Tuesday.

"The fleet has expanded, so we have no more room to maintain the buses."

> **The fleet has expanded, so we have no more room to maintain the buses.**
> John Callahan

The new facility will have the space and infrastructure to house and repair a fleet of 630 40-foot and 30 60-foot diesel transit buses, according to the project tender.

It goes on to say that although the transit department has received the go-ahead as far as capital budget funding, the details of the project are still subject to council approval.

The city expects the garage expansion to be complete by 2018. STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

City, union agree to discuss cost savings

SNOW REMOVAL

Union's ideas are 'practical and realistic': CUPE president

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Coun. Janice Lukes says **she's open to talking with CUPE Local 500 about possible savings.**
STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

City managers may have agreed to sit down with one Winnipeg union to discuss differences in snow removal, but taxpayers should expect little change in service.

During Tuesday's standing policy committee on infrastructure renewal and public works, department staff were directed to meet with members of CUPE Local 500 to share notes and talk cost-saving measures for snow-clearing. The union made the request following the release of a report last fall that calculated the city could save $3 million if private contractors were replaced by in-house staff.

Currently, the city's snow removal service is split between private contractors (80 per cent) and in-house staff (20 per cent.)

The city blasted that idea in a second report released shortly after, characterizing its current program as cost-efficient.

On Tuesday, public works staff also questioned the methodology CUPE used to arrive at its estimated savings, but said yes to a sit-down.

"This isn't about labour versus private sector," Coun. Ross Eadie said during Tuesday's meeting.

"Ultimately, as a City of Winnipeg and us as councillors, what we need to be concerned about is actual good delivery of service at the best cost."

CUPE president Gord Delbridge called the union's ideas "practical and realistic" — such as hiring 150 new employees and spending millions on new equipment purchases — and called on city staff to partner with them to achieve better overall coordination of street and sidewalk clearing.

> **What we need to be concerned about is actual good delivery of service at the best cost.**
> Coun. Ross Eadie

"This era of confrontation must come to an end, and we would welcome a new way of working together," he told the committee.

Afterwards, committee chairwoman Coun. Janice Lukes said she was surprised there was not already communication between the two parties.

"We're always open to looking at cost-savings measures. What will come of (the meeting) I'm not sure. Am I optimistic things will change? Not really no, but I have an open mind," she said.

Sweatin' it, Evander Kane Style

Here's a checklist of the gear you need to rock a track suit like the former Winnipeg Jet, inspiration behind #tracksuitnight

ELISHA DACEY METRO WINNIPEG

Stacks of cash
Listen to your stacks of cash so you don't forget how filthy rich you are, playa.

Mesh baseball cap
Nothing says track-suit chic like a mesh ball cap swiped from a box marked '1989' in your grandfather's closet.

Smug, er, smouldering expression
Practise this in the mirror during your monthly shave.

Mismatched hoodie
Too matchy-matchy is a fashion faux-pas. Rotate for slammin' sweat suits.

INSTAGRAM

Extra stack of cash
Beers at MTS Centre are hella expensive. We recommend flashing these near the Nathan's Jumbo Jets Dog booth to attract admirers.

Baggy pants with string
Cinch these up tight — a baggy waist is no good.

#tracksuitnight tweets

"What, exactly, are #NHLJets fans expected to do on #tracksuitnight? Throw the suits on the ice? Just wear them? Both are kind of funny."
@witchpoliceFM

"Every time I see a tweet about how childish #tracksuitnight is I laugh. This wasn't the Jets fault. It was all the Natural."
@chewybaccawooki

"I just hope Buff isn't traded before the Buffalo game on Jan 10th. #TrackSuitNight :-)"
@H2OMann

"#TrackSuitNight is considered the #NHLJets Stanley Cup this year."
@lorenzGolf

Hashtag hilarity snowballs

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

It's got all the makings of a classic rivalry.

If you've noticed #tracksuitnight on Twitter or Facebook, it's a call to action for Winnipeg Jets fans to wear a track suit when the Jets take on the Buffalo Sabres at MTS Centre Sunday, to poke fun at ex-Jet Evander Kane.

It's gaining momentum, partly thanks to a local radio show that released a video encouraging people to wear their tracksuits.

"After Evander got traded, well, it's hard to quote one source," said Dave Wheeler of Wheeler in the Morning on 92 CITI FM. "There's a bunch of people who connected the dots quickly as soon as they saw the schedule when Buffalo was coming, everyone kind of went, 'track suit night!' It's going to be a fun day and as long as no one takes themselves too seriously, it will be fun."

It was no secret Kane wanted to be traded from the Jets, and his can't-do attitude got in the way of big Jets defenceman Dustin Byfuglien, who reportedly took one of Kane's now-infamous track suits and tossed it in the team's cold tub when Kane showed up for work in casual attire.

Add to that several social media gaffes, including one where Kane sent out a photo on Instagram of himself in Las Vegas pretending to use stacks of cash like a telephone, he was traded a week after the track suit incident… but not until he gave an interview to TSN's Sara Orlesky in a half-undone tracksuit.

The Winnipeg Jets has declined comment on the fan-driven #tracksuitnight campaign. But Wheeler says he is going Sunday and has his tracksuit ready.

"I have a selection of track suits ready. Unfortunately, I left one of them in the shower."

Modern heroes, as art

EXHIBITION

Photo display part of WAG's Olympus installation

Locals may soon be able to spot some familiar faces hanging on the walls of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

This week, the gallery announced the opening of a new photography exhibit that showcases homegrown athletes portrayed as ancient gods and goddesses.

Called "Modern Day Heroes," the new show is a part of the gallery's ongoing exhibition, "Olympus: The Greco-Roman Collection of Berlin," which is on display until March 6.

Pictured in the black-and-white portraits are models Sophia Lee, a principal dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Moe Leggett of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

"I am one of the many artists over the centuries who have been inspired by the work contained in Olympus," said Winnipeg-based photographer Ian McCausland in a release issued by the gallery Tuesday.

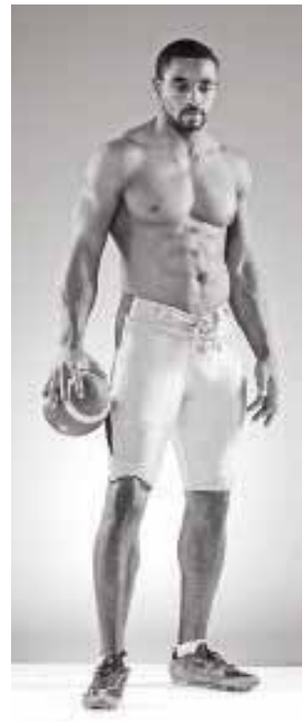
"I feel privileged to have the opportunity to channel that inspiration into creating images of our modern day heroes."

Other athletes in the show include Finn Higgins, who wrestles with the University of Winnipeg Wesmen, and Kimberly Moors, who is on the University of Manitoba's Bisons swim team.

In Tuesday's release, the gallery said each of the four models had the chance to choose which deities they portrayed.

"Modern Day Heroes: Photography by Ian McCausland," is on display until March 6.

METRO



Sophia Lee, principal dancer for Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Moe Leggett, safety for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, portray Aphrodite and Apollo respectively.

WINNIPEG ART GALLERY/ IAN MCCAUSLAND

EDUCATION

Public schools to get 2.5% funding boost

Manitoba public schools will receive about 2.5 per cent more money this year from the provincial government.

Premier Greg Selinger says the increase, which works out to $32.5 million, is higher than the rate of inflation.

Greg Selinger THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The increase is more or less in line with those of recent years, which have ranged anywhere from two per cent to 5.6 per cent.

Selinger says the money includes special amounts for literacy programs, which are to see a 5.9 per cent jump.

The government is also launching a new website, setyourcourse.ca, which will tell students what courses and training they need for different jobs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Help on the way for dogs with leash aversion

If walking your dog really means your dog is walking you, a new class offered by the Winnipeg Humane Society should help return some joy to those outings.

Beginning mid-February, classes called Reactive Rover will be available to help people train leash reactive dogs.

According to the WHS, a leash-reactive dog is one that is friendly when off-leash, but aggressive when on a leash, lunging or barking at other dogs.

Classes are scheduled every Sunday for six weeks from Feb. 14 to March 6. To register go to the Winnipeg Humane Society website. METRO

Lost budgie back home

A budgie gone wild is now safe and sound indoors after spending a few cold months in the company of a flock of sparrows.

The little bird called MacGyvor was lost and left to fend for itself, but has now found himself with a long list of possible owners. On Monday, Avian Welfare Canada said between 12 and 15 people have already come forward claiming to have lost the budgie.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MacGyvor the budgie HANDOUT

The award-winning photograph of a polar bear, which was patiently captured by Dennis Fast. DENNIS FAST/HANDOUT

'A peaceful truce'

WILDLIFE

Photo earns Manitoba man high praise as best of 2015

Dennis Fast has a rule for photographing polar bears in the wild.

Don't get closer than 50 metres from them unless you have a portable electronic fence.

The problem is that the bears don't know his rule.

"Sometimes bears don't know the rules and come up to play," Fast, 72, said in a telephone interview from his home in Steinbach, Man.

A photo of a playful — and close — polar bear taken frolicking in a pink and purple field of fireweed on an island off Hudson Bay's coast, north of Churchill, Man., won him an award for what prestigious online publication mymodernmet.com calls one of the best photos of 2015.

The New York-based publication selected 50 photos from around the globe for the honour.

That photo was taken from 25 metres away, without the protection of an electronic fence, he said. An electronic fence lets him get from five to 10 metres away.

> **"I've learned to be really cognizant of their body language.**
> Dennis Fast

The experience of photographing the bear playing in the flowers was joyful, not frightening, he said.

"That never gets old, to see him relaxing and playing," Fast said.

"That's what I really love about wildlife photography — when I'm accepted in their presence without being a threat."

Fast, a retired school principal, joked that he's not particularly fleet on his feet and that doesn't really matter when photographing bears.

He said it's a mistake to try to outrun a bear anyways. "That triggers an attack response."

He carries a pistol with a noisemaker and a shotgun with him and is thankful he has never had to fire on one of his photo subjects.

"I have never shot one and hopefully never will," he said. "You keep a peaceful truce at a distance and you hope they leave you alone and you leave them alone." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COURT

Man gets jail time for attack on police

A Winnipeg man who backed his truck into five police cars after getting a ticket has been sentenced to 2-1/2 years in jail.

Wayne Rennie will also have to pay Manitoba Public Insurance for the repair bill, which is more than $66,000.

Court heard Rennie was given a ticket for distracted driving on July 20 after recording notes on his phone about deliveries he was supposed to make.

The police officer who wrote the ticket noted that Rennie was upset and told her "now you'll see what I have to do."

Two hours later, Rennie methodically backed up his truck into a row of police cars parked in front of Winnipeg police headquarters.

Rennie apologized in court.

"I'm embarrassed by my actions," Rennie told the judge last month.

"What I did was stupidity. I apologize to police for putting them at risk and ... citizens."

Rennie pleaded guilty to mischief over $5,000, assaulting a peace officer with a weapon and flight from police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MENTAL HEALTH

The judge encouraged Rennie to seek psychological treatment to find out if there is a mental-health issue at play.

Barn fire kills more than 40 racehorses

ONTARIO

Like losing a child, says one trainer who lost 7 animals

The deaths of 43 racehorses in a massive barn fire is more than just a professional catastrophe — it's akin to losing members of a family, one trainer said Tuesday.

Dan Lagace was working with seven horses that were being housed at the Classy Lane Stables in the southern Ontario town of Puslinch, about 20 kilometres south of Guelph. All of his animals and three dozen others perished Monday night in a blaze that could only be subdued through the efforts of 50 firefighters from multiple communities.

"It's almost like losing a child," the 38-year-old said.

Lagace said the blaze also represents a devastating professional setback. He said he has virtually nothing left, since equipment amassed over years was also destroyed in the fire.

The economic impact extends well into the close-knit, horse-oriented community, said Classy Lane co-owner Jamie Millier. Grooms, veterinarians, blacksmiths and other professionals involved in the industry will be feeling the effects of the equine deaths for months to come, he said.

Millier had been vacationing in Florida when he got word of the fire and hastily flew back to Canada. He said 43 horses were in the barn. The death toll would have reached 45, but two other horses normally housed in the barn were out at races at the time.

The fire broke out on a night when temperatures dipped as low as -20 C. Local crews responded quickly, but found the barn fully engulfed in flames.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neighbour Madison Ross, 15, hangs ribbons, flowers and a stuffed pony she brought from home on a fence at Classy Lane Stables. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STUDY

At least 2,250 military veterans homeless

For what's believed to be the first time, the federal government has estimated how many of Canada's homeless are former soldiers.

The March 2015 study by Employment and Social Development Canada estimates that 2,250 former soldiers use shelters regularly, about 2.7 per cent of the total homeless population that uses temporary lodging.

The report, which comes from a database that tracks 60 emergency shelters across the country, noted that the data does not capture the number of veterans who do not use shelters.

Researchers found that veterans who end up homeless tend to be older than non-veterans in the same circumstances.

The average age of homeless veterans is 52, compared with 37 in the general population. Many ex-soldiers cite alcoholism, drug addiction and mental health issues as reasons for their circumstances.

"Interestingly, there is a particularly high rate of episodic homelessness among female veterans," said the report, which noted that 16 per cent of female ex-soldiers reported multiple stints without a roof over their heads, compared with just six per cent of non-veteran women.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Cities opposed homeless count, data show

The federal government is moving ahead this month with a nationally co-ordinated count of homeless people, despite opposition from cities. Cities complained they wouldn't have enough time to get resources in place to count every homeless person during one 24-hour period, and that a count in January would skew results as the cold would drive more people indoors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama takes on gun lobby

UNITED STATES

Expanded background checks among planned steps

Tears streaking his cheeks, U.S. President Barack Obama launched a final-year push Tuesday to tighten sales of firearms in the U.S., using his presidential powers in the absence of tougher gun restrictions that Congress has refused to pass.

The president struck a combative tone as he came out with plans for expanded background checks and other modest measures that have drawn consternation from gun rights groups, which Obama accused of making Congress their hostage. Palpable, too, was Obama's extreme frustration at having made such little progress on gun control since the slaughter of 20 first-graders in Connecticut confronted the nation more than three years ago.

"First-graders," Obama said woefully, resting his chin on his hand and wiping away tears as he recalled the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

U.S. President Barack Obama gets emotional as he delivers a statement on executive actions to reduce gun violence. JIM WATSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad."

Obama's 10-point plan to keep guns from those who shouldn't have them marked a concession by the president: He'll leave office without securing the new gun control laws he's repeatedly and desperately implored Congress to pass.

Although Obama can take action around the margins, only Congress can enact sweeping changes that gun-control advocates say are the only way to truly stem a scourge of mass shootings.

The centrepiece of Obama's plan is an attempt to narrow the loophole that exempts gun sales from background checks if the seller isn't a federal registered dealer. Whether that step can make a serious dent in unregulated gun sales is an open question, and one not easily answered.

Easily reversible by a future president, the guidance lacks the legal oomph of a new law, such as the one Obama and like-minded lawmakers tried but failed to pass in 2013. The Justice Department said the guidance "has no regulatory effect."

It won't happen overnight. It won't happen during this Congress.... But a lot of things don't happen overnight.

What's more, none of the steps would have probably prevented any of the recent mass shootings that Obama invoked: Aurora, Oak Creek, Charleston, Newtown, to name some. But Obama defiantly rejected that critique, dismissing it as the tired trope of gun lobbyists who question "why bother trying?"

"I reject that thinking," Obama said. "We maybe can't save everybody, but we could save some." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HIGHLIGHTS

The plan

1 Expanded background checks
Anyone who's in the business of selling guns must obtain a licence, regardless of where they sell, and must conduct background checks on their customers.

2 More FBI examiners
The FBI will hire over 230 more staff to help process background checks. The FBI is also modernizing NICS and improving the response time for alerting local law enforcement that someone who is disqualified from buying a gun attempted to do so.

3 Lost and stolen weapons
A dealer shipping a gun is responsible for notifying law enforcement once it is determined it was lost or stolen in transit.

4 Smart gun technology
The departments of Defence, Homeland Security and Justice have been directed to conduct or sponsor research into smart gun technology aimed at reducing the risk of accidental gun discharges and improving the tracing of lost or stolen firearms.

5 Mental health
The White House is proposing a $500 million investment to improve mental health care.

Top economists see a bumpy year ahead

ECONOMY

Oil and loonie unlikely to rebound soon, experts say

Canada's economy, much like its weather, started the New Year in a deep freeze. And while warmer times lie ahead, the growth rate in 2016 is likely to be tepid at best.

That was the consensus of the top chief economists at Canada's largest banks at the annual Economic Club of Canada forecast session in Toronto on Tuesday.

The country's top economists kick off the New Year with a forecasting session in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Scotiabank's Warren Jestin says oil prices are unlikely to regain their lofty highs any time soon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oil prices: Slower growth in China, turmoil in the Middle East, and a market-share price war between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia-led OPEC mean oil prices are unlikely to regain their recent lofty highs any time soon, Scotiabank's Warren Jestin said. Even if oil prices rebound to $60 US a barrel from below $40 today, it won't be enough to reinvigorate investment in Canada's energy sector, he said.

The Canadian dollar: Closely tied to demand for oil, the Canadian dollar fell 16 per cent in 2015, its second-worst year on record. Economists now expect the loonie to fall below 70 cents US this year, likely by mid-March, as the U.S. dollar strengthens on hikes in the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate. However, investors shouldn't expect a dramatic recovery in the loonie even if oil prices move off their current lows, Avery Shenfeld, chief economist, CIBC World Markets, cautioned.

The housing market: Calgary house prices, dragged down by the sagging energy sector, could fall a further 5 to 10 per cent in 2016, said Doug Porter, chief economist with Bank of Montreal Financial Group. Vancouver and Toronto house prices, the highest in the country, will face "some kind of correction in the next five years," Porter predicts. For the rest of Canada, he's predicting a soft landing. The Bank of Canada's ultra-low interest rates are unlikely to change in 2016, he added. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SELF-DRIVING CARS

S. Korea university tests driverless taxi

A South Korean university is testing a sedan that can pick up and transport passengers without a human driver, giving a glimpse into the future of autonomous public transport.

Seo Seung-Woo, director of the Intelligent Vehicle IT Research Center at Seoul National University, said the university has been testing the driverless taxi to transport disabled students around campus.

The vehicle, called Snuber, has been navigating the 4,109 square metre campus for the past six months without any accidents. It works in conjunction with a hailing app created by the university.

Companies around the world are betting that automated driving technology will transform public transportation.

In Japan, Robot Taxi Inc. plans to offer a full commercial service in 2020. In Greece, driverless buses called CityMobil2 have been tested in real traffic. General Motors said Monday it is investing $500 million US in ride-hailing company Lyft Inc. and forming a partnership that could eventually lead to on-demand, self-driving cars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 71.48¢ (–0.25¢)

TSX 12,920.14 (–7.01)

OIL $35.97 US (–79¢)

GOLD $1,078.40 US (+$3.20)

NATURAL GAS: $2.325 US (–0.9¢)
DOW JONES: 17,158.66 (+9.72)

IN BRIEF

Workers denied bathroom breaks to get $1.75M

A Pennsylvania company, American Future Systems Inc., that publishes business newsletters will pay about $1.75 million US to 6,000 employees who had to clock out while going on short breaks, including for the bathroom. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, January 6, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE ISSUE

How do I cut my homophobic friend out of my life?

Dear Ellen,

I made a mistake of letting someone back into my life. This person had been a close friend for years, but our friendship quickly turned to turmoil after she burst into my home and told me how "disgusting" and "sinful" I was being with my choice of (same-sex) partner. She yelled and demanded that I end (either) my relationship or the friendship.

I feel that my choice in ending my friendship was a strong one, and cut the friendship that was full of homophobia.

Recently, I agreed to meet her for coffee to give her a chance to apologize. I have been told I'm too nice and give too many chances for forgiveness.

This is correct, as she just came full circle again; instead of confronting me with her disgust for my relationship, she went to friends we have in common.

I don't want to confront this person face to face, as I feel it would end with a few choice words of my own. But at the same time, I'd like to make it clear that this person no longer has a place in my life.

What should I do?

J.C.

Halifax

Dear J.C.,

I love how you say, "I feel that my choice in ending my friendship was a strong one, and cut the friendship that was full of homophobia."

Good manners are never more important than with the people we are close to.

That wasn't just a "strong" choice, my friend. It was the absolutely correct one by any standard. The person you had this "friendship" with is not a friend. She does not understand or accept who you really are. And her manners — what with the homophobia and bursting into homes to yell at people — are deplorable. Good manners are never more important than with the people we are close to, and she failed big time.

Notwithstanding your careful wording, your thinking does get fuzzy when you say "instead of confronting me with her disgust for my relationship, she went to friends we have in common."

Of course it's wrong of her to criticize you and/or your sexual orientation to friends behind your back. But why would you expect her to confront you about it again? She already did that. There's nothing more to be said.

Frankly, it makes sense that you have no desire for another confrontation. You'd be breaking no rules of etiquette if you directly expressed your anger and disappointment to her, as long as your mode of expression was below 60 decibels and didn't contravene any sections of the Criminal Code. But you don't owe her anything. Judging by her backstabbing behaviour, she already knows how you feel.

As for your worries that you are "too nice" and "give too many chances for forgiveness," don't worry. There's no such thing as being "too nice"; it's just code for being a doormat, which you are not. And giving someone a chance for forgiveness doesn't necessarily require contact. She's perfectly welcome to go into counselling about her pathologically destructive homophobia, shower you with abject letters of apology, say extravagantly nice things about you behind your back to friends and send you flowers every week for a year, at which point any self-respecting person might consider forgiveness and renewed friendship.

In the meantime, cut her off completely. If you run into her, be as polite as you can, but decline to engage or open the door to further contact unless or until she earns it from afar. Remember, the less you say, the better.

Actions speak louder than words, and never more eloquently as when you take no action at all.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

What I hope gentrification won't paint over

I've been walking by the same window for three years. It's nondescript, sans signage, but always frames a painting; an inexplicable art window in between bars and boutiques on one of Toronto's overly hyped strips: Ossington Avenue.

I considered the window one of those oddities you find in any city, and until this weekend, never bothered to solve the mystery. Perhaps, I thought, an anonymous philanthropist was resisting commercialization and warp-speed gentrification — of the kind felt in any big city — by injecting a hit of art.

This weekend, the window held a field of poppies, crimson and dancing against a turquoise sky. On a grey day with a -22 C wind chill, I finally decided to figure it out.

It turns out Christian McLeod of 89 Ossington Ave. is a 46-year-old painter, and his live/work space is an echo of what the street used to be: cheap, deemed dangerous and undesirable, marked by car parks, a home reno store, an elevator mechanic's shop and other studios.

That was 10 years ago, and McLeod is among the holdouts, along with a cigar manufacturer and a dive bar. Places that put change into perspective, while they last — a synagogue in Chinatown, say — and are all the more valuable for it.

A French lady used to run a sandwich-and-soup shop open for just three hours a day. "You'd go up there one day and there'd be a sign: 'Gone to Paris, back in two weeks.'"

"It was quiet, it was almost abandoned," he says.

Due to residential zoning, McLeod's rent has stayed low. His new neighbours? "They're paying $7,000 a month for some of these storefronts."

Zoning also means he can't hang signs to advertise his studio, but he's always hung a painting. Five years ago, he'd never believe Bang Bang, an ice cream sandwich shop, would draw 40-minute lineups. "I would have said, 'You're nuts.'"

And as the foot traffic has picked up, he's begun to leave his door open on warm weekends.

Neighbours who've researched the area's history figure his is one of the oldest houses on the street. They discovered an artist lived in his exact space in the 1860s, he says. But McLeod is well aware that he may be its last occupant. Some day soon, he expects the landlords to flip the switch, and condos will rise.

"It's their property. They've been so good to me," he says. "It's just business."

I tell McLeod I don't know why I waited so long to learn the story of one of my favourite windows. I'm lucky it wasn't too late.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Check out #RichardSapper on Instagram for creative tributes to the acclaimed designer of the Tizio lamp, IBM ThinkPad, who died last week

'Tis the series premiere season

TELEVISION

New year, new episodes of 10 beloved TV shows

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Canada

Season 11 of It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia premieres tonight on FXX. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED/GETTY IMAGES

Downton Abbey (Now airing)

This year marks the beginning of the end for one for the greatest Brit TV dramas of all time. The Crawleys return to PBS for a sixth and final season of Downton Abbey, which began airing Jan. 3. The final season has been airing in the U.K. since the fall… but of course you've been patient and download-free, right?

Megan Fox steps into New Girl's awkward shoes.

The Bachelor (Now airing)

One of TV's greatest guilty pleasures, The Bachelor, brought its addictive blend of romance, drama and superficiality back into our living rooms on Monday. This time around, two-dozen women are battling it out for the affection of Bachelorette finalist and fan favourite, Ben Higgins.

New Girl (Now airing)

It's hard to believe that four seasons of New Girl are already in the can, but alas, the fifth kicked off last night. To start the season, fans witness Megan Fox temporarily filling in for Zooey Deschanel as the show's female lead, as Deschanel took time off to be a new mom.

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (Tonight)

As we saw from its ridiculously awesome '80s ski-movie parody trailer, It's Always Sunny is finally back tonight. And although Season 11 won't likely feature any action on the slopes, we can't wait to see the gang back together.

American Idol (Tonight)

The 15th and final season of American Idol also starts this evening. If you gave up on the show years ago, you may want to tune back in for what's sure to be an epic last run. Along with host Ryan Seacrest, Harry Connick Jr, J-Lo and Keith Urban are returning as the show's final judges. It's going to be so big that even Kanye auditioned.

Shameless (Jan. 10)

On Jan. 10, the most hilariously dark and dysfunctional family on TV today, the Gallaghers, are back for a sixth season. If for some reason you haven't watched the American version of Shameless yet, you really need to get on it.

Workaholics (Jan. 14)

Stoners rejoice. Adam, Blake and Anders, our favourite doofus telemarketers, are back for a new season of Workaholics, starting Jan 14. Judging by its brain-melting, acid trip of a trailer, the new season looks like it's going to be the weirdest one yet.

Agent Carter (Jan. 19)

The awesome Peggy Carter is taking her superhero butt-kickings to the West Coast for Season 2 of Agent Carter, which begins on Jan. 19. This time around, Carter will have her hands full with L.A.-based atomic age threats in the wake of the Second World War.

Portlandia (Jan. 21)

The hilarious duo of Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein are getting set to unleash 10 more hipster-ribbing episodes of Portlandia starting on Jan. 21. We're pulling for more Peter and Nance in Season 6.

The X-Files (Jan. 24)

The most highly anticipated premiere of the New Year is the return of The X-Files. Mulder and Scully are back to fight aliens and search for the truth in the six-epsiode miniseries that begins on Jan. 24. We're pumped!

Gillian Anderson in The X-Files.

BOOK EXCERPT **WINTER CABIN COOKING BY LIZZIE KAMENETZKY**

Gnocchi with wild mushrooms

Escape the cold of winter with this beautiful collection of 150 mouthwatering recipes inspired by the cuisines of mountain villages and ski towns around the world.

For this book, acclaimed cooking writer, Lizzie Kamenetzky, has taken inspiration from snow-covered mountains and Alpine chalets, with all her favourite food from ski towns and winter holidays.

With stunning location photography throughout, you can recreate the delights of winter without leaving the comfort of your home.

There is something undeniably comforting about little pillows of potato gnocchi. When cooked properly, they should be tender and fluffy rather than dense and heavy. Serves 4 - 6

Ingredients:

- 1lb. 2oz. even-sized small floury potatoes, such as Maris Piper/Yukon Gold, unpeeled
- 2/3 cup 00 flour, plus extra to dust
- freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 2 banana shallots, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 11 oz. wild mushrooms, cleaned and sliced if large
- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- scant 2/3 cup double/heavy cream
- small handful of fresh parsley leaves,
- chopped fine sea salt and ground black pepper freshly grated Parmesan, to serve

NASSIMA ROTHACKER/WINTER CABIN COOKING

Directions:

Cook the potatoes, whole in their skins, in boiling salted water for 25 minutes until they are tender. Drain the potatoes and, once cool enough to handle, peel the skins off and mash the flesh using a potato ricer or by pushing it through a sieve/strainer so it is lump-free and fine.

Put the flour, 1 teaspoon salt and a little nutmeg into a bowl and add the potato, mixing with the blade of a knife.

Make a well in the centre, add the beaten egg and mix together until well combined. Bring together with your hands but don't knead or you could make your gnocchi tough.

On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough into sausage shapes, about 1/2 inch wide, then cut into 1/2 inch pieces. Use the tines on the back of a fork to roll the gnocchi, giving them the characteristic ridges. Put on a floured baking sheet and chill until you are ready to cook. (You can cook them now or chill for up to 24 hours.)

Make the sauce. Melt the butter in a pan and add the oil and shallots. Cook for 10 minutes until softened and tender.

Add the garlic and fry for a further 30 seconds then add the mushrooms. Increase the heat and fry for 10 minutes until they are golden brown.

Add the wine and bubble for a minute. Add the cream, a splash of boiling water to loosen it a little and plenty of salt and pepper, then stir in most of the parsley. Bring a pan of salted water to the boil and add the gnocchi. They are cooked once they float to the surface, about 1–2 minutes.

Scoop out with a slotted spoon and divide among warmed serving bowls. Warm through the sauce and spoon over the gnocchi. Scatter with the remaining parsley and serve.

WINTER CABIN COOKING: DUMPLINGS, FONDUE, STRUDEL, GLUHWEIN AND OTHER FIRESIDE FEASTS
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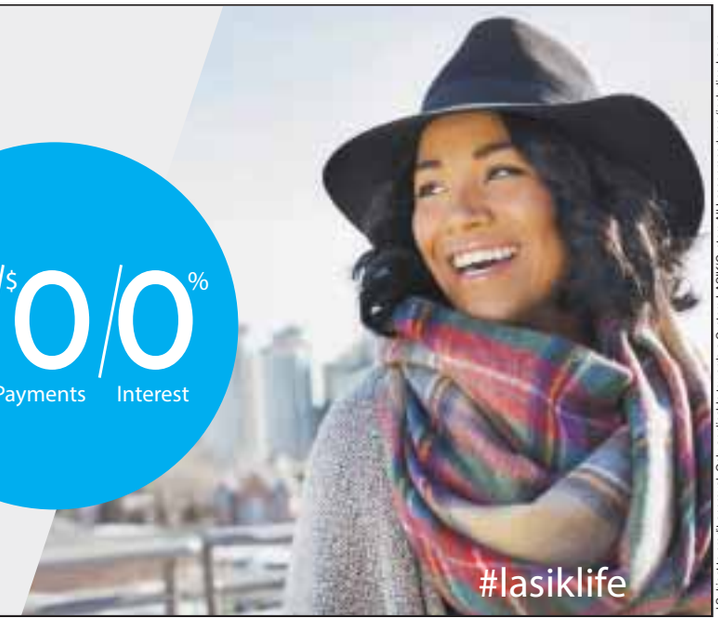

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Some holiday leftovers are best left uneaten

FOOD SAFETY

Can you eat it? Experts explore the dangers

If your post-holiday leftovers are calling your name, reconsider.

Remember: the "best before" dates on your food items don't apply once you've opened them.

If your kitchen is often brimming with leftovers, consider turning your refrigerator temperature down. They'll last longer. Turn the dial lower than the typical 4 C, around 1-4 C. This will slow down the growth of harmful pathogens.

We canvassed industry food and nutrition experts for advice on some food items you might be tempted to eat a few days later.

An open carton of chicken stock

Verdict: Use within three to five days.

"There are legit 'don't get sick' rules and then there are 'how far can I push it?' rules," says Theresa Albert, a Toronto nutritionist and food consultant who also writes for Metro. "We have to move food through the danger zone as quickly as possible." For chicken stock, you should play it safe and use within 3-5 days.

"If it was homemade chicken stock it would be less," Albert says, noting that carton of chicken stock is higher in preservatives such as sodium.

Here's a tip: use half the carton when you open it and freeze the other half.

Cooked turkey or chicken

Verdict: Use within three days or freeze.

You know that five-days-in-the-fridge smell? That's spoilage.

"I probably wouldn't use it up to a week past," says Brita Ball, food safety consultant and adjunct professor at the University of Guelph. "When you're getting to the fifth day you can start to smell a little bit of spoilage happening."

Ball suggests freezing leftovers immediately. "The sooner you freeze them, the better." You could also recook the meat to kill off some of the "spoilage organisms," which aren't harmful. It's the pathogens like salmonella you need to worry about.

Hummus left on the counter overnight

Verdict: Toss it or heat it up.

Jeffrey Farber, former director at Health Canada and current food science professor at the University of Guelph is quick to call this a big "no-no."

"That type of product which is left out overnight, you never know," he says. Farber is also wary of suggesting you use the hummus in cooking. As is Ball: "I don't like to waste food, but I would throw it out, absolutely," she says. She wouldn't even cook with it. "Once it's out on the counter, I have no idea what pathogens might be in there."

Nutritionist Albert suggests it's best to toss it if the hummus is mayo or yogurt based. She wouldn't spread it on toast, but might use it to thicken a soup or gravy.

Slow cooker chili with cooked ground beef, left on counter for 8 hours without power

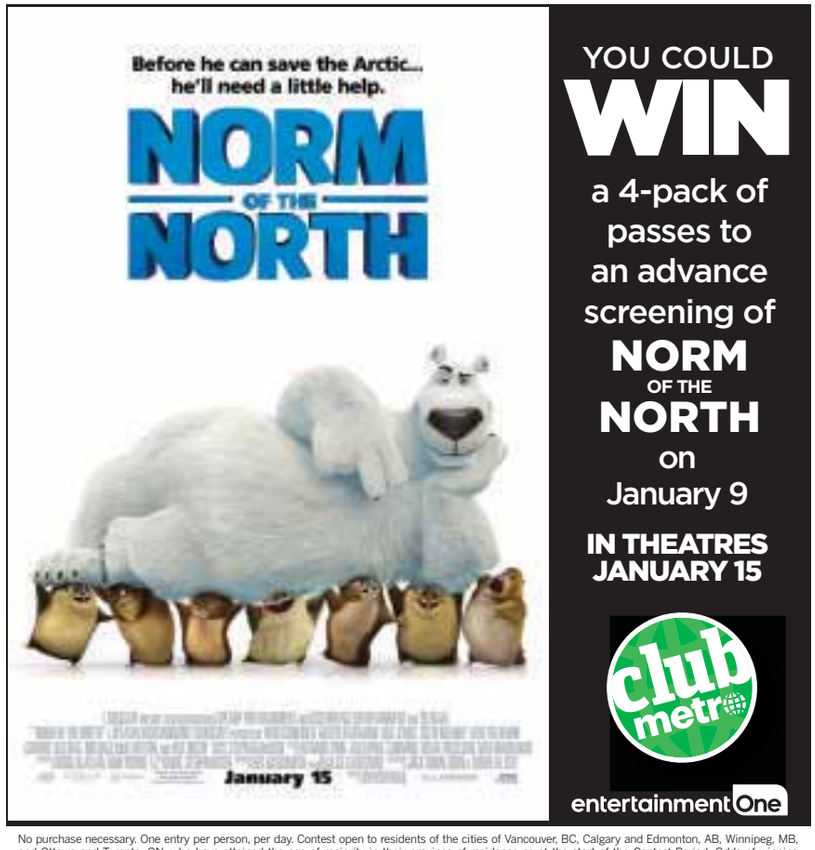
Verdict: Toss it.

Don't treat food safety like a game. "It could be the game of your life," says Albert. If you forgot to turn the slow cooker on, start from scratch. "Ground beef is one of the highest risk foods. There's just far too many opportunities for the beef to be contaminated."

The standard is two hours of meat on the counter before it becomes a "food safety risk," says Ball. "People waste food and they don't need to. It's OK to use food past the best before date, because that's a food quality issue." But food safety is different, she advises. This one's a no-brainer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When leftovers start piling up in your fridge, don't treat food safety like a game. "It could be the game of your life," one expert says. ISTOCK



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metro DRIVE

Your essential daily news

Mystery electric car startup Faraday Future unveils its first prototype

Take the middle road with the X1

ROAD TESTED

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 BMW X1 XDRIVE 28I

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Power. Turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder (228/258)
Transmission. Eight-speed automatic
Price. $38,800 (base); $50,040 (as-tested), plus destination

MAIN AND INTERIOR PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO, OTHERS HANDOUT

COOL FEATURES

- Head-up display
- Heated steering wheel
- Connection package with concierge service
- Collision mitigation with emergency braking
- Panorama sunroof
- Hands-free liftgate operation
- Touchpad infotainment input

POINTS

- The dash-mounted "tablet-style" infotainment screen keeps your eyes up at the windshield when you're looking at the system.
- The new design provides more headroom than before.
- Run-flat tires are standard equipment, but they can be swapped for regular all-season tires as a no-charge option.

MARKET POSITION

- The compact crossover/SUV is one of Canada's hottest markets, and many of the premium automakers are bringing out smaller models. The X1's redesign keeps its compact footprint but makes it roomier than before.

THE COMPETITION

Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 4Matic
Base price: $38,000

Audi A3 Quattro
Base price: : $36,800

Lexus NX 200t
Base price: $41,950

REVIEW

New BMW crossover good for both city and country

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Automakers often share vital components between their models, and that's what has happened with BMW's smallest crossover, its X1.

For 2016, it morphs into its second generation, with new styling and more interior space. But it now links with BMW's other brand, and shares its engine and driveline with the equally new Mini Clubman.

While it's still all-wheel drive like the previous X1, this newest model primarily works with its front wheels, sending power to the rear ones as needed for traction and stability on curves, acceleration, and slippery surfaces.

The new exterior design gives it more resemblance to the larger X3, while the roomy interior follows BMW's signature look. The styling is solid, but there's a lot of hard plastic on the dash that looks a bit cheap for the price.

My tester had optional sports seats that were very comfortable and supportive, along with sliding and reclining rear seats that fold almost flat for extra cargo space.

The X1's turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine includes an auto start/stop system that shuts it off at idle, such as when you're waiting at a light, and automatically starts it again as soon as you take your foot off the brake.

It's smoother than many I've driven, but you can turn it off if you prefer.

This new engine actually makes a little less power than the previous generation, but you wouldn't know it by the feel behind the wheel.

The transmission is an eight-speed automatic that can be optioned to a performance version with paddle shifters, in a package that also adds a sportier steering feel.

> **Steering response is quick, and the X1 handles beautifully.**

Steering response is quick, and the X1 handles beautifully. However, the ride is tuned for sports performance rather than luxury, and it's very firm.

The all-wheel system transmits power seamlessly between the front and rear axles. Although it's not really an off-road warrior, I've driven the X1 on a challenging course that it handled quite well, making it a feasible choice for those who spend weekdays on the asphalt, but like their weekends at the cottage and need something that can get them all the way there.

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metro SPORTS

Steve Nash and Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver have bought a controlling share of Spanish soccer club Real Mallorca

Jets centre Mark Scheifele shoots against Predators goalie Pekka Rinne on Tuesday in Nashville. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jets torch Predators

NHL

Stafford leads attack by scoring twice on power play

TUESDAY In Nashville

JETS	PREDS
4	1

Drew Stafford scored a pair of power-play goals to lead the Winnipeg Jets to a 4-1 win over the Nashville Predators on Tuesday night.

Ben Chiarot and Alexander Burmistrov also scored and Connor Hellebuyck made 43 saves for the Jets. Hellebuyck turned aside 17 shots in the first, 12 in the second and 14 in the third.

Colin Wilson had the lone goal for Nashville, which has lost three of four.

Winnipeg scored the only goal of the first when Stafford connected on the power play at 10:43.

Tyler Myers carried the puck into the Nashville zone on the left side. From below the goal line, he sent a backhand pass in front to Stafford, where he beat Nashville goaltender Pekka Rinne between the pads on a redirection.

Stafford scored his second of the night at 8:42 of the second, again on the power play.

With Stafford positioned in front of Rinne, Toby Enstrom sent a slap shot from the left point toward the Nashville net. Stafford extended his stick just below the height of the crossbar and tipped in his 14th of the season with a deft deflection.

Rinne finished with 14 saves.

Chiarot made it 3-0 at 5:05 of the third with a wrist shot from the left side. The goal was Chiarot's first of the season.

Wilson got Nashville on the scoreboard at 13:23 of the third.

Burmistrov added an empty-net goal in the game's final minute. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Nichols elects to stay with Bombers

Matt Nichols believes the Winnipeg Blue Bombers are close to being a CFL contender.

That's primarily why the veteran quarterback re-signed with Winnipeg on Tuesday rather than become a free agent next month.

"I think the makeup is there for this team to be very good and I want to be a part of it," Nichols said during a conference call. "We were very close to winning some close games against good teams and easily could have had three, four more wins down the stretch and got ourselves into the playoffs.

> **"I think this team is going to have a good turnaround like I saw in Edmonton.**
> Matt Nichols

"I can see the talent level is there, the passion is there, guys never gave up and that's a team I want to be a part of."

Winnipeg acquired Nichols from Edmonton in September and he started seven games for the Bombers. Nichols completed 149 of 248 passes for 1,757 yards with 10 touchdowns after throwing for 1,488 yards and eight TDs with the Eskimos.

Winnipeg (5-13) finished fourth in the West Division, four points behind the B.C. Lions (7-11) for the final playoff spot in the division. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AHL

Moose get their revenge in edging Griffins

Patrice Cormier restored the lead for the Manitoba Moose as the Baby Jets edged the Grand Rapids Griffins 2-1 Tuesday night at MTS Centre.

Moose netminder Eric Comrie was busy — an all too common theme as of late — stopping a pair of second-period breakaways while his club was out-shot 12-3 in the frame. The 20-year-old continued his solid play with a 37-save victory.

Manitoba opened the scoring with 28 seconds remaining in the opening frame as J.C. Lipon placed a perfect pass through the low slot for a backhand redirect by Chase De Leo that tucked under the bar.

Former Jet Eric Tangradi notched Grand Rapids' only goal, sliding a rebound under Comrie late in the second to tie the game.

The game served as a touch of redemption following the 4-1 domination by the Griffins on Sunday afternoon, lighting up the 5,930 in attendance.

The Moose (10-17-1-3) will host the Toronto Marlies for a pair of games on Friday and Saturday.

DARRIN BAUMING/FOR METRO

Finland's Kasperi Kapanen, right, celebrates scoring the winning goal with teammates Vili Saarijarvi, left, and Joni Tuulola. RONI REKOMAA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WORLD JUNIORS

A thrilling Finnish for the gold medal

Kasperi Kapanen scored a wrap-around goal in overtime as Finland rallied past Russia 4-3 on Tuesday to win the world junior hockey championship.

Patrik Laine, Sebastian Aho and captain Mikko Rantanen all scored in the third period as Finland staged a late comeback. Kaapo Kahkonen made 22 saves for the win.

"That's one of those goals that you always dream of," said Kapanen. "I guess dreams do come true."

Andrei Svetlakov scored twice for Russia and Vladislav Kamenev had the other goal. Alexander Georgiev stopped 25 shots.

TUESDAY In Helsinki

FINLAND	RUSSIA
4	3

On the winner, Kapanen deked around two defenders, skated around the back of Russia's goal and threw the puck into a wide-open net as Georgiev failed to dive back into position.

"Everything's so blurry," said Kapanen when asked to describe the goal. "So excited and in shock at the same time."

It was Finland's fourth world junior title and second in the past three years.

"Very happy. Happy for the team, for the whole of Finland," said Rantanen. "We had an absolutely unbelievable crowd there and everyone was watching at home on TV."

Georgiev's start in net was a surprise after Ilya Samsonov's solid 26-save performance in Russia's 2-1 semifinal win over the United States.

Many Canadian fans in attendance supported the host side even though the Finns eliminated Canada in the quarter-finals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRONZE

Earlier in the day, Anders Bjork, Matthew Tkachuk and Ryan Donato each scored two goals as the Americans won bronze with an 8-3 win over Sweden.

RECIPE One Pot Chicken Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The genius of this recipe is that the pasta cooks right in the sauce, meaning you only have one pot to clean.

Ready in
Prep time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

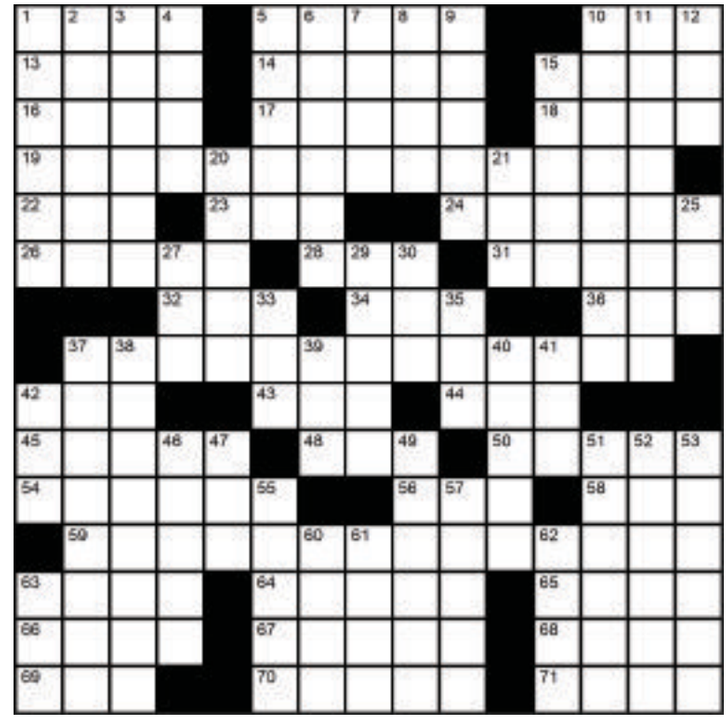
Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cubed
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 1 Tbsp fresh Thyme
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1/2 cup chicken stock (or 1 cup of stock if you don't have or feel like using wine)
- 1 x 28 oz can of whole tomatoes
- 1 cup water
- 225 grams of dried pasta
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup mozzarella

Directions
1. Warm up your olive oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Brown the chicken, working in batches. Once all the meat is nicely browned but not cooked through, add the garlic and give it all a stir.
2. Now add the thyme and mushrooms and let them soften up and kick off their juices. Add the wine and/or stock, water and tomatoes. Break the tomatoes up with the back of a wooden spoon.
3. Bring the sauce to a bubbly simmer and add your pasta. As the pasta softens up in the heat, push it under the liquid. Depending on which pasta you're using it will take about 15 to 20 minutes. Check seasoning and remove from the heat.
4. Top evenly with mozzarella and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Tropical birds
5. Explode
10. Baseball bosses, briefly
13. Actor Rob
14. Singer Ms. Baker
15. Coin insertion place
16. __ __ all possible
17. P.E.I., The __ Province
18. Jekyll's other side
19. As per #37-Across... Tune by The Weeknd in the 'Favorite Song' category: 4 wds.
22. German article
23. 'Pay' suffix
24. Dawn goddess in Roman mythology
26. British singer/activist Billy
28. Vintage laundry detergent brand
31. Frankie Goes to Hollywood hit
32. Him, in Quebec
34. Dance step
36. 'Social' suffix
37. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016 on CBS... __ __ Awards
42. _ __ mode
43. Look
44. Energy unit
45. Gulf of St. Lawrence attraction, __ Rock
48. 'Inc.' cousin
50. Canada __ (Patriotic bird)
54. Tropical fruit
56. Hawaii's __ Beach
58. Airport for The Kardashians, commonly
59. Maple taffy drizzled on snow treat in Quebec: 4 mots
63. Good: French
64. Rain/snow mix
65. Declare with certainty
66. As soon as...
67. Matrikin
68. Clay-ish stuff
69. Questionnaire question
70. Certain candle
71. Celebratory cries!

DOWN
1. The Autobiography of __ __. Toklas (1933 Gertrude Stein book)
2. "That's against the rules!": 2 wds.
3. "_ __ Be Your Man" by The Beatles
4. Rectangular paving†block
5. Bakery item
6. Like the book that's never been opened
7. Historic Canadian Louis
8. Base
9. Ms. Tucker
10. __ Acid Peel (Dermatology clinic service)
11. Preside over the political debate
12. Fr. holy woman
15. Portion
20. Be a mirror in a just-used-shower bathroom: 2 wds.
21. Cat's coat
25. Logs-making need
27. Mop & __ (Floor cleaner)
29. Bothered
30. Mr. Efron
33. They, in Sherbrooke
35. Talking Heads' "And __ Was"
37. Creation of fashionable folds
38. Secret Service agent's electronics device
39. Fitting-here fish
40. Musical grinder
41. "_ __ Blind" by 54-40
42. Handheld add-on
46. Chili con __
47. Storm's centre
49. Erase
51. John's "Grease" (1978) co-star
52. In a wise way
53. Strains
55. Plus
57. Tap liquid
60. Arm bone
61. Harvest
62. Effortless
63. Red carpet scarf

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Take initiative. If you sit around waiting for others to make the first move it's unlikely you'll get anywhere. Aries is a Cardinal sign, meaning you have leadership qualities, so get out there and lead.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
There is a danger that with so many people singing your praises you'll lose sight of the fact that you make mistakes just like everyone. Don't let the hero worship go to your head.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
There may be a lot of stress in your life but you will find ways to cope. One way, of course, is to take nothing too seriously. If you can't laugh at life then you're doing it wrong.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't allow others to speak on your behalf. If you do there is a very good chance they'll say something that causes problems. Take responsibility for your own thoughts and beliefs — and always speak from the heart.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
How much do you trust someone? Enough to let them handle your money? If you're convinced that they won't cheat you then let them make decisions. If not, stay in control.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You want to push your luck today. You want to take chances. A link between the Sun and Pluto in your fellow Earth sign of Capricorn means you know that you can't be beaten.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If someone needs your help today you must give it with no questions asked. A deed done with no thought for your own reward will do no end of good. The way to change the world is to be nice.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This promises to be an excellent day socially, get out and make new friends and enjoy new experiences. Someone you meet on your travels will say something that opens your mind to new possibilities.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't follow the herd. Go your own way and, if certain people don't like it, take that as a sign you are on the right track. You make the rules.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Stand back from yourself and work out why you think and act in certain ways. Once you realize that so much of what you do is done out of habit it will be easier to change things.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Use your powers of persuasion to do what needs to be done. It may be annoying having to rely on other people but the planets warn you won't get far on your own.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You're in the mood to take a few risks and they will pay if you join forces with like-minded people and work together towards a common goal. Anything is possible when you are part of a team.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			5		1		4	
2		9				8		
	4				3		9	
9		8	7		5			6
5			4		8	3		9
	3		9				7	
		4				1		5
	1		8		4			

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

8	4	9	7	5	1	2	6	3
7	3	6	9	2	8	4	5	1
5	2	1	4	6	3	8	7	9
3	7	5	2	1	9	6	8	4
1	6	4	8	3	5	9	2	7
9	8	2	6	7	4	1	3	5
4	9	7	3	8	6	5	1	2
2	1	8	5	9	7	3	4	6
6	5	3	1	4	2	7	9	8

Difficulty Level ★ 11:05

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66% Spike In Recent Foreclosures Plus Aging Baby Boomers Downsizing Creating Discounted Property Frenzy In U.S.

New Real Estate Bonanza

Right now while you are reading this, hedge funds are buying U.S. property in mass. Foreign nationals are loading up on houses as fast as they can. Some savvy individuals are snapping up housing in the U.S. like never before.

In October, *Reuters* reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping $5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. *Bloomberg Business* says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

One of the fastest growing demographic segments in the U.S. is those over age 65. Their downsizing activity is flooding the market with discounted property.

Foreclosures, Flips & Flowing Money

Foreclosures clogged in the U.S. courts are now surging. Those that know how are gaining windfalls of opportunity for flips or portfolio growth.

Yet individual investors are asking, "Can I still find good deals in U.S. property?" The answer is an emphatic YES.

Warren Buffet told CNBC he would buy a couple hundred thousand single family homes if he could.

Real estate investors on the Turnkey Trainings team know the right way to buy property. No matter what the economy is doing. Using their proprietary techniques, you too can find screaming bargains in the U.S.

They will reveal these breakthrough strategies at the FREE events in the Winnipeg area. When you attend you'll see many successful current and former and students who made a bundle in U.S. real estate.

The Vancouver couple pictured here, were able to buy an entire trailer park in Florida for half off. Their investment brings them a 23% net annual return on their money. Would you like these types of returns?

Another Canadian couple found and flipped a property in 2 weeks to pocket a cool $40,000! Imagine if you could do that just a couple of times a year.

You can if you gain the knowledge. You will after attending this FREE educational event where you will find out;

- Super simple method for getting sellers to chase you. The sellers of the trailer park mentioned above emailed and texted the buyers over 100 times! Hear the secret strategy to make sellers want to deal with you!
- How to get funding for your deals, so you never have to tie up your own money or use your credit! We'll give you a free funding certificate just for attending!
- How to beat the house flipping wizards by becoming a wholesaler to hedge funds
- New zero money down strategies! News to you no matter how many real estate seminars you may have attended!
- How to close property deals over the phone in 9 minutes or less

A Blueprint for Profiting from Real Estate Safely

No matter how many real estate seminars you've attended. Or courses you've taken.

This FREE educational event shows you how to create real wealth... fast. The master's level secrets will make real estate investing seem like a steal.

You'll learn how to find real estate as much as 70% off, close discounted deals in minutes, and flip them in days or rent for passive income. No experience needed.

These breakthrough strategies have closed 12,000 property deals in the last 15 years...

They've earned investors healthy returns, often in as little as 7 days...

You can't afford to sit by while one of the greatest real estate opportunities in the U.S. roars by.

If you're serious about learning techniques that land you on profitable deal after deal... then attending this FREE educational event is a no-brainer.

After attending the FREE workshop this couple bought an 13 unit trailer park in Florida for 50% off!

This is a FREE educational event, reserve your seat now!

Register Now, Call Toll Free 1-844-685-3254 or www.PassiveWealthEvent.ca

SHERATON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6
at 12 am or 6 pm
Four Points by Sheraton Winnipeg South
2935 Pembina Highway
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2H5

FAIRMONT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7
at 12 am or 6 pm
Fairmont Winnipeg
2 Lombard Place
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y3

REGENT
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8
at 12 am or 6 pm
Canad Inns Destination Centre Club Regent Casino Hotel
1415 Regent Ave W
Winnipeg, MB R2C 3B2

AIRPORT
Saturday, January 9
at 10 am
Homewood Suites by Hilton Winnipeg Airport- Polo Park
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Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N5

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